



OPFAM

Dominican Family Matters

A Newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia, New Zealand, Solomons and Papua New Guinea

Woe to us if we do not preach the Gospel!

Motto for the years leading up to 800th celebration in 2016; 2010 – “The Mission of Preaching”

13th July 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

Without a living relationship to the present, any talk about Dominican spirituality remains a purely historical preoccupation with the past of the Order (often an excuse for neglecting tasks which are urgent now). Dominican spirituality is a living reality which is to be realized among us now. ...

A 'golden thread' runs through the Dominican family story, from Dominic down to the present day. As may become evident, this golden thread sometimes runs across the fabric of Christianity – a fact that we must not obscure when we are writing our share in the great history of the Order. Provided that this golden thread is woven into our life story, however different it may be in content, we have in fact realized Dominican spirituality. 'Spirituality' is not spirituality so long as it is only described, whether in an assertive or an authoritarian tone. It is spirituality to the degree that is realized in practice – as a completely new rendering of an old Dominican melody....

Dominican spirituality is therefore in the first instance to be defined as a spirituality which, on the basis of admonitory and critical reflection on the heritage left behind by the past religious tradition, takes up critically and positively the cross-thread provided by whatever new religious possibilities for the future keep emerging among us. Therefore it can never be a *material* repetition of what our Dominican forebears have themselves done admirably. Nor, however, can it be an uncritical acceptance of whatever 'new movements' (in the mystical or political sense) are now evident in our midst. For Dominic, the essential thing was the question of truth. *Fr E. Schillebeeckx OP, 'The Golden Thread'*

A Tale of Two Novitiates

As the Universal Church was celebrating the feast day of the great apostles, Peter and Paul, our Province added to that solemnity with the progression of five young men to the next stage in their Dominican vocations. We were pleased to welcome their families to St James' Priory, Glebe, together with Bishops Bernard O'Grady and Anthony Fisher, O.P. and a large number of local and visiting friars.

Receiving the habit from the Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Saunders, O.P., were Br Jordan (Eduardo Fernandez, 33), Br Robert (Kiran Krishna, 29) and Br Francis (Nigel Fam, 22). They were clothed in the black and white 'wool' of the Dominican Order in a brief ceremony before Evening Prayer. The three new novices are now on their way to the novitiate priory in Hong Kong. There they will spend one year receiving instruction and formation from the Novice Master and community, sharing in the life of prayer and fraternity of the senior friars, and discerning their vocation to the Dominican Order.

After Evening Prayer, we celebrated the Mass of Saints Peter and Paul, at which Brothers Matthew Boland and James Baxter made first profession of vows for three years in the hands of Fr Kevin Saunders, O.P. They completed their one-year novitiate in Hong Kong under the tutelage of Fr Bonifacio Solis, O.P. Once the two professed brothers have enjoyed a short break with their families, the two new student-friars will join the community of St Dominic's

Priory in Melbourne, where they will begin their institutional studies at Catholic Theological College.

The five young men, together with Br Karl and Thomas, made their retreat the week before the ceremonies with Fr Aloysius Rego, O.C.D, and our brothers Dominic Murphy and Vincent Magat, O.P.

We give thanks to God for the new novices and students, and ask you to pray for them!

Br Paul Rowse OP

Another Dominican Artist of note

Canadian artist Gaston Petit.

Currently living in Tokyo, Petit was born in Shawinigan, Quebec, Canada in 1930. He graduated with degrees in philosophy and theology from the Dominican House of Studies in Ottawa where he was ordained as a catholic priest in 1959. Two years later he went to Japan as missionary.

Petit started to work regularly as an artist in 1963. He works in a wide variety of media and his subjects range from the purely secular to the profoundly religious. His designs including stained glass windows, murals, tabernacles, baptismal fonts, and candle holders are found in more than fifty churches and chapels, throughout Japan.

Viewers will be attracted to a variety of colours which are involved in his work. A characteristic of his style is his use of lines. They shape forms and appear quite naturally when two different colours juxtapose. His interest in lines emerged from the time he was young which has remained a characteristic of works including in his pen drawings, paintings, and stained-glass windows.

His solo exhibitions of prints, paintings and other media have been organised by galleries and museums in many countries including the Ikeda 20th Century Museum of Art in Itoh, Japan, the Shoto Museum in Tokyo, Japan, and the Musée Pierre Boucher in Trois-Rivières, Canada

Timothy Radcliffe describes Gaston's 'Annunciation' - Mary begins by sharing her faith with someone to whom she is close, Elizabeth; they are members of the same extended family, share the same religious world, and even their unexpected pregnancies. But a few months later she will give birth to her child, who will profoundly disrupt her life. Gaston Petit, O.P. is a Canadian painter living in Japan. His picture of the Annunciation is dominated by the overpowering figure of the Archangel Gabriel, a samurai warrior carrying the symbols of divinity and of imperial rule. Mary is dwarfed, a delicate Japanese girl who has dropped her lute to the ground. This prefigures how her child will turn her world upside down. This child has entered her womb and her world, but he will also transform that world and challenge its assumptions.

His work can be seen in Gaston Petit [the kimono and the cross : interview with an artist in Japan](#) by Linda Ghan, 2002

Dominican Calendar

Jul-13 Bl. James of Voragine (1226-1298) Italian, Archbishop of Genoa, hagiographer, author of the famous *Legenda Aurea* (The Golden Legend).

Jul-17 Bl. Ceslaus Odrowatz (c.1180-1242) Polish, priest, brother of St. Hyacinth, one of first Dominicans, missionary.

Jul-22 St. Mary Magdalen (1st cent.) [M] Jewish, "Apostle to the Apostles" because to them she proclaimed the resurrection of Christ, mirroring the mission of all Dominicans; therefore secondary co-patroness of the Order with St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nov. 24).

This day is sometimes referred to as 'Signadou Day'. Traditionally it marks the day in 1206 on which Dominic received a 'sign of God' which led him to support and sustain the first group of 'Dominican' women at Prouilhe in the south of France.

Please send contributions – short paragraphs – about Dominican Life in your area to archives5@bigpond.com.au – OFTEN!